

**LIVING IN THE WILL OF GOD - "WHAT MANNER OF MEN?"
I THESSALONIANS 2:1-16**

1. For what reasons was Paul being criticized by the people in Thessalonica? Were these criticisms justifiable? How does Paul set a biblical example of answering criticisms?
2. What was the main reason Paul went to Thessalonica to preach the Gospel? (Hint: Acts 16:9-10)
3. In 1 Thess. 2:4 Paul states that he preaches "not as pleasing men but God." What does he mean by that? How is this a mark of a preacher's authenticity?
4. Do Paul's statements in 2:1-6 apply to modern ministers and their ordination? How so or not so?
5. Many are surprised that Paul would use a maternal (i.e., feminine) metaphor to describe an elder (pastor). But what is Paul attempting to illustrate in verses 7 – 9?
6. Was it arrogant for Paul to say he was "blameless" before the Thessalonians? What did he mean by that statement? Could a person make that claim about himself/herself now?
7. What did Martin Luther (and Mike Ross) mean by the statement, "The preaching of the Word of God is the Word of God."? Do you agree?
8. D. A. Carson said that "We (modern people) have hungered to be masters of the Word much more than we have hungered to be mastered by it." In what ways do you see this in the P.C.A., in Peace Church, or in your own life?
9. What limit is there to the freedom of your own conscience?
10. Do you agree with Mark Howell who wrote about God's Word, "It's one thing to recognize its divine authority, but it's another thing to acknowledge its sufficiency."? What practical results are there to the sufficiency of Scripture for you and me?
11. When you read Ezekiel 33:30-33, what is the first thing that comes to your mind? Discuss this with the others in your community group. Also...read Ezekiel 22:30.